

The School Board Corner

By Bob Hunt, Aquia District

February 2004

It's hard to find any American who isn't touched in some way by the public schools as a student, parent, taxpayer, employer, or any combination of the above. And, by almost any measure, the schools are one of the public's top concerns. All desire that we do better, but most cannot find a way to fund this desire for excellence. We are in the middle of the annual school budget process, and we are concerned about doing the right thing for all Stafford County Schools. As you know, maintaining a quality school system and managing our growth are our main priorities. We are looking at new and creative ways to finance, design and build schools. I want to pursue additional Public-Private-Partnership initiatives based on what is best for Stafford County. However, as we develop the budget, it is of vital importance for you to get involved and to stay involved. Do not assume we have all the information and understand all the issues. We have already gotten significant feedback about potential changes in our health care program, the need for additional testing coordinators, and requests for the Stafford Education Association. "No Child Left Behind" must extend to all aspects of our student population - special needs students, average students, and gifted students.

Opinions differ on the effectiveness of the Standards of Learning (SOL) testing. But standard testing is here to stay. The statistics show that our SOL scores are rising at all levels. Our students are being prepared for post high school success in professional/technical and higher education endeavors. One of the great things about the Stafford School system is that they are not just preparing students for college; they are also preparing Special Education students for successful job performance and providing our students with excellent certifications and experience in professional fields. We must continue to expand all these programs and add new programs.

We must be concerned about quality education as measured by student success. Are we reaching every student to support them to be the best they can be? We will build great schools and effectively administer great programs. However, I believe student success preliminary starts and ends in the classroom. There is no substitute for great classroom personnel. And, I know of no way to effectively measure the impact of the great teacher. But I do know great teachers make it happen. To all our great teachers, I say thank you!

Bob Hunt
Aquia District

Dana Reinboldt	Griffis-Widewater	659-1467	dreinboldt@grwsb.com
Karen Zink	Hartwood	752-9308	karen4schools@aol.com
Patricia Healy	Rockhill	659-8222	triciahealy@hotmail.com
Robert Hunt	Aquia	659-3704	robert_hunt@msn.com
Robert Belman	Falmouth	899-2138	Belman4schools@aol.com
Ed Sullivan	George Washington	373-1983	esulliva@juno.com
Thomas Villacres	Garrisonville	659-0888	tom@villacres.org